



# Ladysmith News

"Good news since 1895"



Vol. 122, Number 9

Ladysmith, Wisconsin 54848

Thursday, June 16, 2016

**Sheldon Community Fair**  
Good times celebrated **Page A2**

**Plow museum open house**  
1920s House a trip through time **Page A11**

**Dairy breakfast a success**  
Bluegrass festival draws crowd **Page A12**

Rescues made Friday and Saturday

## Two lost person searches stretch area resources

- Two sheriff departments respond
- Firefighters from four communities paged out
- Volunteers scour Blue Hills area

**By Luke Klink**  
Officers from three law enforcement agencies, firefighters from four fire departments, three K-9 units and dozens of trained searchers scoured the dense woods along the border of Rusk and Sawyer counties for almost 12 hours overnight Thursday and Friday to find a person reported lost.

The next day, many were back in the same general area looking for another lost person. Both lost individuals were eventually found mostly uninjured, but at the expense of thousands of dollars in public resources.

Missing person searches like the two this past weekend are rare for his department, according to Rusk County Sheriff Jeff Wallace. "I think we had more last weekend than we

had all last year," he said. The first search started at about 10:30 p.m., Thursday, June 9, when the Sawyer County Sheriff's Department received a 911 call reporting Thomas Aspeter, 32, of Melrose, in Jackson County, was lost after his car broke down. Officials verified Aspeter's vehicle, a 2-door coupe, was discovered in about one hour with its doors locked and stuck on an undeveloped logging road off a gravel road off the intersection of W. Taylor and N. Hanson roads. Aspeter was not with the vehicle located in Sawyer County, and a search was started.

A family member who reported Aspeter missing at about 10:30 p.m. Thursday, said they last heard from

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**MISSING PERSON SEARCH** — Rusk County Sheriff Jeff Wallace (second from left) helps coordinate the search effort Friday morning from a staging area on Taylor Road in the town of Murry along the border between both counties. After a 12-hour search of the surrounding woods involving law enforcement officers from Rusk and Sawyer counties and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, firefighters from four area fire departments, at least three K-9 units and trained volunteer search parties, a man from Monroe County was found uninjured.

— News photos by Luke Klink



**PLOWING THE ROAD** — The Sheldon Community Fair Main Street Parade is all orange, green and red as vintage Allis Chalmers, John Deere and Oliver tractors make their way along the parade route, led by a 1946 Cockshutt Co-op E3. Organizing the impressive tractor turnout were Sam, Chet, David, Samantha Gohat, Bob Rosolowski and Randy and Rhonda Larson. More pictures from Sheldon Community Fair are on Page A2 in this week's *Ladysmith News*. — News photo by Luke Klink

## Chain of Lakes group hears zoning changes

**By Katherine Schulz**  
Rusk County Land Conservation and Development Department Director CeCe Tesky spoke to the Island Chain of Lakes Property Owners Association Saturday, June 11, about the changes to the county's shoreland zoning ordinances in the works.

The Island Chain of Lakes is comprised of Island Lake, McCann Lake, Clear Lake, and Chain Lake in the towns of Big Bend and Rusk in southwestern Rusk County. Part of the chain is in Chippewa County.

Most of the changes are required to bring county ordinances in sync with state standards established in 2012, when the legislature overhauled Wis. Stats. sec. 59.692 and Department of Natural Resources code NR 115.

The County Land Information/Zoning Committee is reviewing and updating Chapter 50, and a public hearing is scheduled for July before the proposed changes are presented to the county board.

About 40-50 people attended the talk at Backwoods Resort on McCann Lake and offered comments and questions.



**EYE OPENER** — About 50 people attended the Island Chain of Lakes Property Owners Association meeting Saturday morning to hear Rusk County Land Conservation and Development Department Director CeCe Tesky talk about the new shoreland zoning ordinances. Most were surprised to learn a building permit is different from a zoning or land use permit, and they need both a building permit from the town or city and a land use permit from the county. "Always call us, please," said Tesky.

— News photo by Katherine Schulz

Since 1968, when the state adopted the first minimum shoreland zoning standards, counties could adopt ordinances more restrictive than state standards. In 1971, Rusk County adopted its first shoreland zoning ordi-

nance.

In the 1990s the number and size of houses built on lakes and rivers increased, and many counties recognized the state minimum standards did not do enough to protect the lakes

and streams. Counties could and did adopt more restrictive standards.

Rusk County applied just the minimum standards for lot sizes, setback requirements and buffer areas. In 2000, the county adopted more restrictive impervious surface standards.

The legislature made changes in 2012, 2013 and 2015 which provide counties cannot apply shoreland zoning standards that are more restrictive than state standards. The standards which must be uniform across counties are lot sizes, vegetation, building setbacks, filling and grading, impervious surfaces, height and non-conforming structures and uses.

Other changes to Rusk County zoning ordinances are in the works, but not all such changes are required by state law and not all will be uniform with Chippewa or other counties.

In Rusk County, the minimum lot size in unzoned townships is 100 feet wide and 20,000 square feet, which applies in Big Bend and Rusk.

Curt Madson asked if the state

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## Hawkins man found guilty of role in burglary ring

**By Katherine Schulz**  
A Hawkins man was found guilty in Rusk County Circuit Court Tuesday after entering pleas of no contest to four felony counts and two misdemeanor counts stemming from a series of burglaries in the towns of True, Hawkins, Grant



**Zachary Voldberg** and Lawrence

2014 through March 2015. Working with a Kennan man, the pair allegedly stole tractor tires, power tools, propane cylinders, a tree stand, a rifle and ammunition, a shotgun and shotgun shells, clay pigeons and firewood. The pair also allegedly stole two tractors, a three-wheeler, a Honda generator, a Bison tandem axle trailer, and a Ford F350 pickup truck.

Zachary E. Voldberg, 19, was charged with 19 offenses in 12 separate cases stemming from a crime spree with Joseph R. Davis, 20, Kennan. Davis faces similar charges

in Rusk County for his role in the burglaries, and is expected to enter into a plea agreement.

A civil forfeiture case resulted in the seizure of a gooseneck trailer owned by Voldberg and used in the commission of some of the crimes.

Tuesday Voldberg appeared in person with attorney Gary McCartan and pleaded no contest to three felony counts of theft of movable property (special facts), one felony count of theft of movable property greater than \$5,000 up to \$10,000 in value and two counts of criminal damage to property. The thefts in-

volving special facts included three firearms.

Judge Steven P. Anderson accepted Voldberg's pleas and found him guilty of the six charges. The remaining 13 charges were dismissed but read in for sentencing and restitution.

As part of the plea agreement, the prosecutor and defense counsel recommended sentence be withheld and Voldberg be given three years' probation on the felony convictions and two years' probation on the mis-

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The Partners of Rusk County Memorial Present their 2nd Annual Fundraising Dinner

# Evening in Paris

Saturday, June 25, 2016 • Tee Away Supper Club  
5:30 pm Social & Hors D'oeuvres • 6:30 pm Dinner  
Dinner • Entertainment • Silent Auction

**Tickets on Sale Now!**  
For tickets, call Winnie Lee 715-532-3453

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### Weather forecast

**Tuesday**  
  
76°F / 60°F  
More clouds than sun

**Wednesday**  
  
75°F / 53°F  
Thunderstorms

**Thursday**  
  
77°F / 56°F  
Cloudy

**Friday**  
  
83°F / 58°F  
Mainly sunny

**Saturday**  
  
84°F / 63°F  
A few clouds

**Sunday**  
  
84°F / 64°F  
Isolated thunderstorms